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National Gallery takes massive security measures

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WASHINGTON — As crowds gather for tickets, the National Gallery of Art is putting the final touches on the millions of dollars in insurance and security needed to make its blockbuster Vincent Van Gogh show happen.

Are the 70 Van Gogh paintings coming by air or by sea for the show, which begins Oct. 4, from their home in Amsterdam? Dutch and American museums won't say. Nor will they say when the pictures will be moved or what protection they'll have.

However, Sjaar van Heugten, acting head of the Van Gogh Museum in Amsterdam, said the wooden traveling cases must be left in his building for at least 24 hours to "acclimatize" them to a temperature of 66 to 70 degrees

"Self Portrait as an Artist" is one of the 70 paintings by Vincent Van Gogh being shown.

70 Van Goghs are going to D.C.

Fahrenheit. Only then can the precious paintings be put inside.

"The worst thing that can happen to a painting is temperature shock," Heugten said.

Van Gogh has been called the greatest Dutch painter after Rembrandt, and a single Van Gogh painting has sold for \$82.5 million. So 70 of his pictures would be worth billions if they ever hit the market, which is unlikely. Museum authorities refuse to put a dollar value on the pictures, which will travel to Los Angeles next year after the Washington exhibit.

"In principle, our collection has no value because we will never sell it," Heugten said.

The U.S. museums won't say how much they are paying to borrow the pictures, made possible because the Amsterdam museum is closing for eight months of repair and expansion.

"Museum people don't like to talk about dollar figures," said Alice M. Whelihan, who runs an insurance program provided by the federal government. It supplements the private policies taken out by museums.

The U.S. government's liability is limited to \$300 million for any one exhibit, but Whelihan said security kept her from specifying the

liability on this one.

The U.S. show will include pictures of the famous austere but brightly colored bedroom Van Gogh rented in the southern French city of Arles and the nearby yellow house where he hoped in vain to set up a colony of like-minded painters.

The first painting visitors will see is the somber group of poor Dutch peasants called "The Potato Eaters," one of the early works. There will also be the wheat field with an agitated flight of crows — probably the last thing Van Gogh painted before his suicide.

To handle crowd control, Sandra Creighton, in charge of visitor services at the gallery, is hiring 55 extra staffers.

The gallery expects up to 400,000 people during the three-month show. By 11 a.m. on Sunday, a line of more than 600 had circled the gallery's East Building, waiting for the doors to open so they could pick up the first advance passes. Some had come before dawn. The line was almost as long Monday.

The exhibit will be at the National Gallery of Art from Oct. 4 to Jan. 3, 1999, and at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art from Jan. 17 to April 4, 1999.

senior centers

By Alan Edwards
Deseret News staff writer

All right, all you baby boomers, it's time to step back and take stock. Time to stop the posturing and self-deception, step in front of the mirror and take a good, hard look at yourselves.

Hmm. Receding hairline. Broadening middle. Wrinkles more than simple laugh lines.

"In many ways, a senior center is the equivalent of the malt shop for teens."

Cellulite threatening to overrun its entrenched position and breach the front lines.

The signs, alas, are unmistakable — you're getting old.

Hey, no feeling sorry for yourself now. Prune juice isn't so bad. If you're going to feel

sorry for anybody, feel sorry for Salt Lake County — that's who has to figure out how to accommodate all you folks into its senior centers in the future.

Or, shall we say, the coming-up-fast years. The county's population of seniors (defined as residents older than 60) is expected to go from 94,000 in 1997 to 142,000 in 2010 — a 51 percent increase in just 13 years. What's more, "this is only the beginning," according to a Senior Center needs analysis report released last week by Wikstrom Economic & Planning Consultants. "The year 2010 is the first year that the senior-center system will feel the impact

runs under the gloom

Please see Correction or Crisis? on B7.

By Robert D. McFadden
New York Times News Service

NEW YORK — Gloom, fear, pain and queasiness. Across the nation, the anxieties ran high on Monday as investors big and small watched the jagged lines fall and much of the year's profits evaporate in a breathtaking 512-point plunge on Wall Street. Many called it scary, but almost no one seemed ready to panic.

The day's paper losses were heavy. But conditioned by years of bull-market bravado and still confident in the fundamental soundness of America's economy, most investors interviewed in New York, Atlanta, Boston, Denver, Los Angeles, Miami, Seattle and elsewhere voiced expectations that the market would bounce back and said they had no intention of getting out, not yet

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anyway.

"I'm not thrilled," Germaine Meilach, 61, a Manhattan investor, said, as she sipped a drink at a sidewalk cafe after the market's cascading close. "But I still feel things are good. I don't see a reason to panic. You can't have 28 percent earnings all the time. I think people would be foolish to get out. We have to be patient."

In Seattle, Peter Hurley, a city planner, agreed, though he lost 10 percent of his net worth on Monday. "It's disturbing, to put it mildly," he said. "But I'm taking the long view

Please see **MARKET** on A3

It's a bear market, Utahn says

By Max B. Knudson
Deseret News business editor

"Bloody, absolutely bloody."

That's the way a shellshocked Sterling Jensen, president and CEO of First Security Investment Management Inc., reacted to a burst of selling on Wall Street in the last three hours of trading Monday that

the Dow Jones Industrial Average (6.37 percent) and wiped out what remained of this year's gains.

"We've got a full 20 percent correction, top to bottom, and that's a true bear market, not just a severe correction" said Jensen.

Tony Johnson, vice president of the Salt Lake office of brokerage

Dow yo-yo on upswing

A jittery Wall Street tried to come back from Monday's rout, which wiped out this year's gains. In a day of wide swings, the Dow Jones industrial average first shot up 143.41 points, then tumbled by 138.77, only to begin rising again. It was up more than 140 points at 7,680 in early afternoon trading Tuesday. Broad-based indicators also were rising, including the technology-heavy Nasdaq index. President Clinton added his voice to efforts to restore calm to shaken markets. "We believe our fundamental economic policy is sound," he said in Russia Tuesday, echoing comments Monday by Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin.

having trouble digesting the ferocity of the sell-off but said he is still advising his clients to quell their fears and hang on to their stocks and equity mutual funds.

"It's hard to sit by and watch, but you haven't lost anything until you sell and lock in the loss," said Johnson. "Until then, it's just a paper

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